Application No. 10/660,571 Attorney Docket No. 242326US2

Inventor: Yuusuke NOGUCHI, et al. Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully

request

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-54 are pending in the present

application. Claims 1, 17, 33, and 34 are amended without the introduction of new matter by

the present amendment.¹

New Claims 49-51 depend from Claims 4, 20, and 36, respectively, and further recite

that a first distance between one of the toner cartridges/supply means and a corresponding

one of the image creating mechanisms/means is equal to a second distance between another

one of the toner cartridges/supply means and another corresponding one of the image creating

mechanisms/means.² New Claims 52-54 also depend from Claims 4, 20, and 36,

respectively, and further recite that at least one of the toner cartridges/supply means is

prismatic in shape.³

Accordingly, examination on the merits is believed to be in order and an early and

favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

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Gregory J. Maier

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 34,423

Registration No. 25,599

¹ Support for the amendments is self-evident from the original claims.

² For support, see Specification, page 27, lines 1-6.

³ For support, see Specification, page 29, lines 3-6.

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